

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01010 242119Z

72

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 291

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL: SPC MEETNG FEB 24

REF: A) USNATO 866; B) STATE 36229

1. SPC ON FEB 24 HD EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PRESS CIVERAGE OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. CANADA, UK, BELGIUM, ITALY, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS, AND FRG REPORTED VERY LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. U.S. REP (MOORE) DREW ON REF B CONCERNING "EXTREMELY LIGHT" U.S. PRESS COVERAGE.

2. CANADIAN REP (ROY) THOUGH THAT PRESS COVERAGE IN CANADA SHOWED THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WERE RIGHT IN THINKING THAT THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS WITH CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION. UI REP (BAILES) NOED THAT THE UK PRESS ATICLES WERE BASED LARGELY ON THE REUTERS DIPATCH CONCERNING THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, AND THE
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PAGE 02 NATO 01010 242119Z

ARTICLES GENERALLY CITED ONLY ONE OR TWO OF THE ALLIED REASONS FOR FINDING THE EASTERN PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE THE UK DREW TWO CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS, FIRST, REUTERS REPORTING FROM VIENNA IS VERY IMPORTANT. SECOND, THE AHG SPOKESMAN SHOULD CONTINUE

TO TRY TO ADDRESS ISSUES SUCCINCTLY; ANNY COMPLEX ALLIED
RATIONALE, HOWEVER LOGICAL, MIGHT BE LOST IN THE PRESS.

3. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) THOUGHT THAT THE GOOD REACTION
IN THE WESTERN PRESS WAS DUE IN A SMALL PART TO THE PERFORMACNE
OF THE AHG PRESS SPOKESMAN, THE PRESS ATTACHE OF U.S. DEL
MBFR VIENNA, HANS HOLZAPFEL, BURNY POINTED OUT THAT MORE
IMPORTANT THATN THIS GOOD PRESS REACTION IS THE IMPACT
ON CERTAIN POLITICAL GROUPS IN ALLIED COUNTRIES. NORWEGIAN REP
(SELMERL DID NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIETS HAD YET MADE MUCH OF A
PROPAGANDA BATTLE OUT OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL, BUT THEY COULD
STILL DO SO. NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) ALSO NOTED THAT THE
SOVIETS HAD NOT YET TRIED TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY OUT OF THE
EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, AND THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENT DO
NOT YET HAVE THE REACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE WEST TO
THE EASTERN PROPOSAL.

4. THIS ITEM WILL REMAIN ON SPC AGENDA FOR MARCH 3 MEETING,
FOR COMMENT BY ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES. MCAULIFFE

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